This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-39 (canceled)

Claim 40 (currently amended): An information acquisition device which acquires digital information [[~~The device according to claim 5, further~~]] comprising:

a first transmission unit having directivity and transmitting, wirelessly, an information request signal in a direction of the directivity;

a reception unit receiving a radio signal transmitted wirelessly in response to the information request signal transmitted by the first transmission unit, and acquiring information contained in the signal;

an information addition unit adding at least an address of the reception unit to the information request signal to be transmitted;

an image capturing unit obtaining image data by capturing a subject image in a same direction as the directivity direction of the signal transmitted by the first transmission unit[[~~, wherein:~~]];

an [[~~the~~]] information storage unit [[~~stores~~]] storing the image data captured by the image capturing unit in addition to the information acquired by the reception unit; [[~~and~~]]

[[~~the~~]] an information presentation unit [[~~presents~~]] presenting all or a part of the information or image data stored in the information storage unit, the information acquired by the reception unit, or the image data captured by the image capturing unit; and

an operation unit issuing an instruction to start acquiring information and an image in one of a plurality of modes,

wherein the reception unit has at least one of (A) no directivity and (B) broader directivity than the first transmission unit.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The device according to claim 40, further comprising:

a mode setting unit setting [[~~at least~~]] one of [[~~a mode~~]] the plurality of modes, which includes (1) an information acquisition mode, (2) an image capture mode and (3) a mix mode,

wherein the operation unit issues an instruction (A) to start acquiring only information in the information acquisition mode, (B) to start capturing only an image in the image acquisition mode, or (C) to start acquiring an information and capturing an image in the mix mode [[~~of acquiring only information, a mode of acquiring only an image, and a mode of acquiring both information and an image; and~~

~~a mode switch unit switching a mode set by the mode setting unit~~]].

Claim 42 (original): The device according to claim 40, further comprising

an information transmission unit externally transmitting the information or image data stored in the information storage unit, the information acquired by the reception unit, or the image data captured by the image capturing unit.

Claim 43 (original): The device according to claim 42, further comprising

a selection unit selecting the information or the image data stored in the information storage unit,

wherein the information transmission unit externally transmits the information or the image data selected by the selection unit.

Claim 44 (original): The device according to claim 43, wherein the information transmission unit transmits information to an address indicating a predetermined destination.

Claim 45 (original): The device according to claim 40, further comprising

a setting unit setting information relating to a type of information received and acquired by the reception unit,

wherein the information addition unit further adds information relating to a type of information set by the setting unit to the signal to be transmitted.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The device according to claim 45, further comprising

an information screen unit screening the information received by the reception unit,

wherein[[,]] information to be acquired is selected by the information screen unit from the information received by the reception unit, and the screened information is stored in the information storage unit.

Claim 47 (original): The device according to claim 46, wherein screening standards of the information screened by the information screen unit designate a type of information set by the setting unit, and only the information of the type set by the setting unit is stored in the information storage unit.

Claim 48 (original): The device according to claim 45, wherein the information relating to the type of identification relates to at least one of a size of information, a type of information, a style of information, a file format of information, a content of information, and a field of information.

Claim 49 (original): The device according to claim 45, wherein the information relating to a type of information refers to information indicating a same target and a different type of information size.

Claim 50 (original): The device according to claim 49, wherein the information relating to a type of information includes information relating to at least one type of common information, summary information obtained by summarizing the common information, and address information in a network containing information.

Claim 51 (original): The device according to claim 40, further comprising:

a server address extraction unit extracting a server address designating an information providing source contained in the information acquired by the reception unit; and

a second transmission unit transmitting a signal in a style different from a style of the first transmission unit.

Claim 52 (original): The device according to claim 51, wherein the second transmission unit transmits by wireless a signal using an electromagnetic wave including light and a sound wave including ultrasonic, and the signal transmitted by wireless from the second transmission unit has no directivity or has broader directivity than the signal transmitted by the first transmission unit.

Claim 53 (original): The device according to claim 52, wherein when the information received by the reception unit is address information in a network in which the information exists, the second transmission unit transmits an information request signal to the server address extracted by the server address extraction unit.

Claim 54 (original): The device according to claim 52, further comprising:

a selection unit selecting at least an information item from the information presented by the information presentation unit; and

an ID information addition unit adding information ID designating information corresponding to the information item selected by the selection unit to the signal to be transmitted, wherein the first transmission unit or the second transmission unit transmits the signal to be transmitted.

Claim 55 (original): The device according to claim 40, further comprising a warning unit giving a warning when the information acquired by the reception unit is incomplete or when it is determined that information cannot be completely acquired.

Claim 56 (original): The device according to claim 52, wherein the first transmission unit or the second transmission unit retransmits the signal to be transmitted when the information acquired by the reception unit is incomplete or when it is determined that information cannot be completely acquired.

Claim 57 (original): The device according to claim 55, wherein the warning unit gives a warning when a size of the information acquired by the reception unit exceeds a predetermined size or a free storage capacity of the information storage unit.

Claim 58 (original): The device according to claim 55, wherein the warning unit gives a warning when the information received and acquired by the reception unit relates to a size of continually transmitted information, and the size of the information exceeds a predetermined size or a free storage capacity of the information storage unit.

Claim 59 (original): The device according to claim 58, wherein when the size of the information acquired by the reception unit exceeds a predetermined size or a free storage capacity of the information storage unit, the information is automatically changed to the information

relating to a type of information of a smaller size, the information addition unit adds the information relating to the type of information to the signal to be transmitted, and the first transmission unit or the second transmission unit retransmits the added signal to be transmitted.

Claim 60 (original): The device according to claim 40, further comprising

an information size setting unit setting a maximum value of a size of information that can be received and acquired by the reception unit,

wherein the information addition unit further adds information relating to the maximum value of the size of the information that can be acquired and is set by the information size setting unit to the signal to be transmitted.

Claim 61 (original): The device according to claim 60, wherein the information size setting unit automatically sets the maximum value of the size of the information that can be acquired into the free storage capacity of the information storage unit.

Claim 62 (original): The device according to claim 40, further comprising

a user information storage unit storing information relating to a user of the information acquisition device,

wherein the information addition unit further adds the information relating to the user and stored in the user information storage unit to the signal to be transmitted.

Claim 63 (original): The device according to claim 40, further comprising

an equipment information storage unit storing equipment information about the information acquisition device,

wherein the information addition unit further adds the equipment information stored in the equipment information storage unit to the signal to be transmitted.

Claim 64 (original): The device according to claim 63, wherein the equipment information contains at least one or more of a maker name of the information acquisition device, a model number, a product serial number, and version information about firmware.

Claim 65 (original): The device according to claim 40, further comprising:

an information acquisition history storage unit storing information designation information designating the information received by the reception unit; and

an acquired information determination unit determining whether or not information newly received by the reception unit has been acquired before according to the information designation information about the newly received information,

wherein the information storage unit stores information determined by the acquired information determination unit that the information has not been acquired in the information received by the reception unit.

Claim 66 (original): The device according to claim 30, wherein the information designation information stored in the information acquisition history storage unit is information containing either one of an address of a device which transmits the signal received by the reception unit or the information ID assigned to the information received by the reception unit.

Claim 67 (currently amended): The device according to claim [[~~40~~]] 41, further comprising

a detection unit detecting that there is an information providing device capable of providing information for the information acquisition device in the direction of the directivity.

Claim 68 (original): The information acquisition device according to claim 67, wherein the detection unit further comprises:

an issued signal reception unit receiving an issued signal from the information providing device; and

a notification unit notifying that there is the information providing device detected when the issued signal is received by the issued signal reception unit.

Claim 69 (original): The information acquisition device according to claim 67, wherein when the detection unit does not detect presence of the information providing device, an information acquiring operation is not performed.

Claim 70 (original): The device according to claim 67, wherein when the detection unit does not detect existence

of the information providing device, and when the mode setting unit sets a mode of acquiring both information and an image, an image is captured only as in the mode of acquiring only an image.

Claim 71 (original): The device according to claim 40, further comprising

a program update unit extracting a control program, and updating all or a part of the control program stored in the program memory to be updated based on the control program when the control program of the information acquisition device is contained in the signal received by the reception unit.

Claim 72 (original): The device according to claim 71, further comprising:

an unreasonable program check unit detecting whether or not an unreasonable program is contained in the information acquired by the reception unit;

an unreasonable program warning unit giving a warning when it is detected by the unreasonable program check unit that an unreasonable program is contained in the information acquired by the reception unit; and

an unreasonable program deletion unit deleting acquired information when it is detected by the unreasonable program check unit that an unreasonable program is contained in the information acquired by the reception unit.

Claim 73 (original): The device according to claim 40, further comprising

an encryption unit encrypting all or a part of the information added by the information addition unit to the signal to be transmitted using an encryption key contained in the information received and acquired by the reception unit.

Claim 74 (original): The device according to claim 73, wherein the information addition unit further adds the encryption key request information to the signal to be transmitted.

Claim 75 (original): The device according to claim 40, further comprising:

an encryption key generation unit generating an encryption key and a decryption key; and

a decryption unit decrypting encrypted information contained in the signal received by the reception unit using the decryption key,

wherein the information addition unit adds an encryption key generated by the encryption key information generation unit to the signal to be transmitted.

Claim 76 (original): The device according to claim 40, wherein the reception unit further comprises a communication unit using a public network and receiving, regenerating, and communicating common voice through the public network.

Claims 77-134 (canceled)

Claim 135 (currently amended): An information providing method in an information providing system having an information acquisition device which acquires digital information and an information providing device capable of providing information at an information request from the information acquisition device, wherein:

the information acquisition device performs:

a detection step to detect an operation to start information acquisition;

an image capture step to capture an image of a subject;

an address addition step to add at least an address specifying a reception unit of the information acquisition device [[~~adding~~]] to an information request signal at least an address specifying [[~~a destination of information~~]] a reception unit of the information acquisition device;

a request transmission step to transmit, wirelessly, [[~~transmitting by wireless~~]] the added information request signal as a signal having directivity in the [[~~a directivity~~]] direction of the subject;

the information providing device performs:

a request reception step to receive the [[~~receiving an~~]] information request signal transmitted by wireless [[~~in the directivity direction~~]] from the information acquisition device;

an extraction step to extract [[~~extracting~~]] the address of the reception unit of the information acquisition device from the received information request signal; [[~~and~~]]

an information transmission step to transmit, wirelessly, [[~~transmitting by wireless~~]] information read

at the information request signal from an information database storing information to be provided to the extracted address;

the information acquisition device performs

an information reception step to receive by the reception unit the information transmitted from the information providing device; and

a storage step to store the received information and the captured image in an information memory of the information acquisition device,

wherein the reception unit has no directivity or has broader directivity than the first transmission unit.

Claims 136-143 (canceled)

Claim 144 (currently amended): The method according to claim [[~~143~~]] 135, wherein the information acquisition device performs

[[~~setting at least~~]] a selecting step to select one of [[~~or switching settings of:~~]] a plurality of modes which include (1) an information acquisition mode, (2) an image capture mode and (3) a mix mode;

when the information acquisition mode is selected then the image capture step is skipped and only the received information is saved to the information memory in the storage step;

when the image capture mode is selected then from the address addition step to the information reception step are skipped and the captured image is saved in the information memory [[~~a mode of acquiring only information; a mode of acquiring only an image~~]]; and

when the mix mode is selected then from the detection step to the storage step is performed [[~~and a mode of acquiring both information and an image, and performing an operation depending on the set or switched mode~~]].

Claims 145-265 (canceled)